TO THE MEMBERS OF

The Rideau and Bathurst Medical Association.

GENTLEMEN.

Again I ask your indulgence, consequent upon the issue of a circular by my opponent in the pending election, in which he gives you a copy of one issued by me, in my contest with the late Dr. Mostyn, for the representation of this Division in 1880, and in which he states that I "emphatically declared" that no one should hold the position (as representative) for more than one term, and that any one asking for it a second time, showed a "selfish and avaricious disposition"—and this he characterizes as an "exposure." Now, gentlemen, I ask you to examine the circular and you will find that, although I stated "the position should be held successively by members of the Division," I also stated such to be "except in cases where potent reasons to the contrary can be urged."

As to the pending election, I may say there are several intricate and important matters to come before the Council, during the next term, which have engaged its attention during the last two sessions, but have not been settled; and one of them, I may mention, is the status in this Province of Imperial Graduates in medicine, and I submit that this is one, among many other "potent reasons"—some of which I mentioned in my first circular to you, dated December, 1889—why I should be re-elected for the next term.

Again—the part, however, of my 1880 circular, which appears to strike Dr. Rogers as most important against me—and to give it unmistakable prominence he has had it printed in italics and large type—is that I stated, "that any asking for the position a second time, showed a selfish and avaricious disposition." Now, as to that, I may say that at that time, I had not been in the position, and, therefore, could not form as correct an opinion on the point as I feel I am able to do to-day. After having been elected your representative and attended the Council, experience soon showed me that the principle of one term, without exceptions, would not be practicable, nor in the interests of the profession at large, and that a man having served one term is all the better qualified to serve longer. You can readily understand how difficult and almost impossible it would be for a man newly elected to take up unfinished questions, not having heard the previous discussions and facts, and to do justice to his constituents with reference to them.

Again, on this point, I might remind you that the principle mentioned in my 1880 circular, was not approved of by you, as I was defeated in that election; nor has it since been adopted, as you will remember I was elected by acclamation for my second term. Nor has it been adopted in any other Division—a fact which I am in a position to state.

And again, if it were the correct principle, what qualifications should be looked to, for a choice? If age, prominence and ability were, would Dr. Rogers be the choice of the profession? or, is no one else better entitled to the position on these grounds?

And as to the "exposure" by the re-issue of my 1880 circular, surely Dr. Rogers has forgotten the fact that, if I caused the circular to be issued, I must have distributed it widely in the Division. There was no secrecy about it; but, on the contrary, as much publicity as I could give it—in fact it was mailed to every member of the profession in the Division, and doubtless many of you remember it, and may still have it in your possession as well as the zealous friend of my opponent, whom he alleges "forwarded" it to him.

And then he appeals to my "honor and self-esteem" to retire from this contest, in view of this exposure (?) made by his issuing my 1880 circular. Now, gentlemen, as he has apparently adopted the views expressed in the circular of 1880, he having caused the same to be re-printed, and embodied in one of his own, I think I am justified in saying that if he has a "particle of honor" he will immediately retire from the contest, as the adoption of these views, necessarily includes the fact that the qualification for the position, just already mentioned by me, should be looked to in carrying out the one term principle. As to my opponent's "self-esteem," I need say nothing—acts speak louder than words.

In conclusion, I may say I have not the slightest intention to retire from the contest, even to please my opponent, and though he seems to think you are quite unable to form a correct opinion as to how or for whom you should vote, without being coached and instructed from time to time by circulars from Ottawa, I have every faith you will elect the one most likely to serve the interests of this Division and the profession generally to the best advantage.

I am yours very truly,

J. G. CRANSTON, M.D.

Arnprior, 13th February, 1890.